THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 22nd December 1949.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, the Deputy President (SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAYUDU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Paper produced at Rajahmundry Paper Mills.

* 61 *Q.*—SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI (on behalf of Sri M. Narayana Rao) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity of paper that is produced by the paper mills at Rajahmundry every month ;

(*b*) the maximum quantity that is expected to be produced ;

(*c*) whether arrangements are made to reach the maximum production and if so, in what time ;

(*d*) whether the accounts of the mills have been audited ; and

(*e*) whether the mills are working at a loss or profit?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI (on behalf of the Hon Minister for Industries) :—" (*a*) About 100 tons a month.

" (*b*) About 250 tons a month of about 25 working days.

" (*c*) Yes, Sir. Necessary repairs have been made to the machinery and additional staff and labour sanctioned for putting the mills in full production. The mills are now working two shifts producing about 4 tons of paper daily. It is expected to start working three shifts and produce the maximum of about 10 tons per day, before the end of next month when the waters of the river Godavari will become clear.

" (*d*) No. As the mills have been treated as a regular commercial concern from 1st April 1949, the balance sheet for the year will be prepared only after the end of the year, i.e., 31st March 1950.

" (*e*) The financial position will be known after the accounts are audited."

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—" May I know, Sir, how much was produced before the Government took up the mills? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Immediately before the Government took over the concern, it was not working. It was producing before that 7 to 9 tons a day."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know if it is working economically? "

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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I draw the attention of the hon. Member to my answer to clause (*e*)."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know when the mills got into production after they were purchased by the Government?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I have not got the exact date here. I think it was after a few months after we took over. Machinery had to be repaired, the boilers had to be overhauled and one boiler had to be specially repaired and all that took some time and if I remember aright it took us about four or five months. After taking over and after all these things had been done, it started manufacturing small quantities and we have gone on increasing production."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" If, on account of two shifts, the mills are able to produce four tons, how is it that the Government believe that they will be able to produce ten tons with three shifts, which is proportionately much larger than what they produce with two shifts?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" That is what we are assured by our technical personnel there, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Are the Government satisfied that the production for the two shifts is satisfactory?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" It is not quite satisfactory, Sir."

Admissions to the Medical Colleges.

* 62 *Q.*—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a deputation of the South Indian Provincial Branch of the Indian Medical Association waited on the Hon. Premier and represented that a certain percentage of admissions into Medical Colleges should be made on merit only;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government have decided to effect any changes in the present system of admissions which is prevailing since April 1947 and if so, to what effect; and

(*c*) what percentage has been fixed by the Government with regard to admissions on merit?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (*a*) of Legislative Council Question No. 4 (starred);

" (*c*) No percentage has been fixed specifically for admission based on merit; but, it has been decided that if there are any vacancies due to want of suitable candidates from certain particular communities, such vacancies should be filled according to merit subject to the condition that the regional and district quotas are not affected."